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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/802,547	03/16/2004	Michael Cosci	HSJ9-2003-0199US2	3730

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW OFFICE
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EXAMINER

CABRERA, ZOILA E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2125

DATE MAILED: 11/26/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/802,547

Applicant(s)

COSCI ET AL.

Examiner

Zoila E. Cabrera

Art Unit

2125

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The four non-patent articles provided by the applicant have been considered in the attached Form 892 since the 1449 Form has not been provided.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3-4 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Nguyen (US 2002/0147518 A1)**.

Regarding claim 1, **Nguyen** discloses a system for improving manufacturing yields, comprising:

- at least one manufacturing facility into which unprocessed parts enter (Fig. 1, Production Facility; Page 1, [0018], line 4);
identification plan for said unprocessed parts, by which each unprocessed part is given unique and traceable unprocessed part identification data (Page 1, [0006], lines 5-6, i.e., control ID is assigned to one or more components);
processing equipment included in said at least one manufacturing facility by which said unprocessed parts are turned into processed parts (Fig. 1, Production Stations Y1...Y3);

identification plan for said processing equipment by which each piece of equipment is given unique and traceable processing equipment identification data (Page 1, [0006], lines 2-4);

identification plan for said processed parts, by which each processed part is given unique and traceable processed part identification data (Page 1, [0006], lines 1-2) and which is relatable to said unprocessed part identification data and said processing equipment identification data (Page 1, [0006], lines 13-14; Page 3, [0032], lines 1-4);

at least one computer terminal connected to a database into which said unprocessed parts identification data, said processed parts identification data and said processing equipment identification data is stored, and related, (Page 1, [0006], lines 13-14; Page 2, [0019], lines 27-30 and lines 34-40) and which said data is retrievable to allow processed parts with defects to be traced to the processing equipment by which it was processed for repair or modification of said processing equipment (Page 2, [0019], lines 34-40; Fig. 3, step 180; Fig. 3A, step 197; Page 3, [0027], lines 4-6).

Regarding claim 3, **Nguyen** discloses,

- testing equipment by which testing of said processed parts can be conducted (Page 3, [0027], lines 6-8; Fig. 1, Inspection Stations and Quality Assurance Stations).

Regarding claim 4, **Nguyen** discloses,

- said database is accessible from multiple computer terminals (Page 2, [0020], lines 4-17).

Regarding claim 6, **Nguyen** discloses,

- said multiple computer terminals are connected by an intranet (Page 2, [0020], lines 4-17).

Regarding claim 7, **Nguyen** discloses,

- said processing equipment is located in more than one manufacturing facility (Fig. 1, Production Stations Y1 to Y3).

As for claim 8, **Nguyen** discloses,

- said testing of said processed parts is done in a separate manufacturing facility from the one in which at least one of said at least one processing stage is performed (Fig. 1, Inspection Stations AQ-01 to AQ-03).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2, 5, 9, 10-14 and 15-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Nguyen** as applied to claim 1 above and further in view of "**Western**

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**Digital Rewrites Industry Standards for Quality with a Global Data Warehouse”,
Pages 1-4.**

Nguyen discloses the limitations of claims 1, 3-4 and 6-8 above but fails to disclose some limitations of claims 15, 17-18 and 20-22 and further fails to disclose the limitations of claims 2, 5, 9-14, 16, 19, and 23-28. However, **“Western Digital Rewrites Industry Standards for Quality with a Global Data Warehouse”, Pages 1-4** discloses such limitations as follows:

As for claim 2,

- said identification plan for unprocessed parts is achieved by assigning numbers to batches of parts and further assigning data related to positions within said batch of parts (Page 2, left Col., paragraph 2, i.e., “Finding the root of quality issues requires the ability *to trace separate part to their lot*”; Page 3, left Col., paragraph 4, i.e., a reseller calling to report a faulty hard drive may ask if any other hard drives in a particular shipment or lot number may be affected... the account representative... can respond immediately to the reseller’s concerns).

As for claim 5

- said multiple computer terminals are connected by the Internet (Page 3, left Col., paragraph 3, i.e., web browsers).

As for claim 9,

- said testing of said processed parts includes shipping finished manufactured products to consumers and monitoring field problems (Page 2, Right Col., lines

30-34, i.e., "QIS's ability to capture hard drive build data along with shipment information"; Page 3, under "QIS Delivers Strong ROI", lines 3-8).

As for claims 10-14,

- a plan for addressing problems which are identified during the manufacturing process, said plan including Problem identification, through customer communication and performance monitoring, Analysis, to determine the source of the problem, Action, including efforts by manufacturing and engineering departments to solve the problem, and Result, in which improvement to the yield is confirmed (Page 3, left Col., under "QIS Action", last paragraph; Page 3, right col., paragraph 3, i.e., The system is capable of accessing any Wester Digital manufacturing data from around the world);
- said Problem identification of said processed parts includes shipping finished manufactured products to consumers, monitoring field problems and inspecting returned products (Page 1, under "A Complex Quality Management Challenge", lines 8-14);
- said Analysis includes tracing parts downstream to monitor performance of parts from a processing machine which is suspected of having problems (Page 2, left Col., paragraph 1; Page 4, "The Closed Loop of Information");
- said Analysis includes tracing parts upstream to correct performance of a processing machine which is suspected of causing problems (Page 3, under "QIS Delivers Strong ROI"; Page 4, "The Closed Loop of Information");

- said Analysis includes sending ahead parts from a main batch to test performance of the main batch (Page 2, left Col., paragraph 2, i.e., "Finding the root of quality issues requires the ability *to trace separate part to their lot*"; Page 3, left Col., paragraph 4, i.e., a reseller calling to report a faulty hard drive may ask if any other hard drives in a particular shipment or lot number may be affected... the account representative... can respond immediately to the reseller's concerns).

With respect to claims 15, 17-18, and 20-22, the same citations applied above to claims 1, 3-4, and 6-8, respectively, apply as well for claims 15, 17-18, and 20-22, with the exception that the system is used for HDDs (Hard drive disks). **"Western Digital Rewrites Industry Standards for Quality with a Global Data Warehouse"**, discloses tracking global quality data for hard drive disks (Page 3, left Col., paragraph 4; and Page 3, right Col, paragraphs 3 and 4, i.e., "The new ability to pinpoint individual component-level effect before hard drives are shipped to the customer, as well as trace back the cause of potential failures in the field").

As for claims 16, 19, and 23-28, the same citations applied to claims 2, 5, and 9-14, respectively, apply as well for claims 16, 19, and 23-28.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the apparatus and method for monitoring manufacturing status of **Nguyen** with the teachings of **"Western Digital Rewrites Industry Standards for Quality with a Global Data Warehouse"**, **Pages 1-4** because it would provide an improved system wherein managers can easily find data on specific

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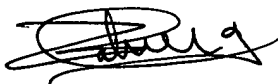
products and conduct analysis on shipments, enabling them to serve customers proactively and with greater efficiency (Page 3, Right Col., Paragraph 5).

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Zoila Cabrera, whose telephone number is (571) 272-3738. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST (every other Friday).

If attempts to reach the examiner by phone fail, the examiner's supervisor, Leo Picard, can be reached on (571) 272-3749. Additionally, the fax phones for Art Unit 2125 are (703) 872-9306. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the group receptionist at (703) 305-9600.



Zoila Cabrera
Patent Examiner
11/13/04